Press Release

Tri Valley Health SystemProvides New Service for the Treatment of Kidney Stones.

Tri Valley Health System has recently started a new service for the treatment of kidney stones. The non-invasive procedure, called shockwave lithotripsy, utilizes a special device called a lithotripter that generates controlled pressure waves or “shockwaves” outside of the body. Patients are carefully positioned on the lithotripter’s table so the shockwaves can be precisely directed at the patient’s kidney stones. Over the course of treatment the stones crumble to sand size pieces and these are eliminated naturally through the urine. A shockwave lithotripsy procedure for a single stone may take up to an hour and is performed by a urologist in the operating room under anesthesia. For most patients the procedure is done as an outpatient.

Tri Valley Health System CEO Jessica Fisher says that “Tri Valley is very excited to be able to offer this innovative procedure for our patients for what can be one of the most painful conditions a person may experience. In the past patients have had to travel to larger medical centers if they wanted to have the lithotripsy treatment. This offers a new level of convenience and service to our community. This became possible with the recent addition of urologist Dr. Kenneth McCalla to our staff.”

This modern medical procedure comes to Tri Valley through the services of Roseville, Minnesota based Midwest Stone Management. The company brings a portable lithotripter and a highly skilled technologist to assist the doctor on a regular schedule to the hospital. Patients are evaluated for their kidney stones by their urologist and if they are appropriate candidates for the procedure they are scheduled to be treated on the next available visit.

Midwest Stone Management’s medical director, Dr. Roland R. Ugarte, says this treatment has been available in the United States since 1984. The company began in 1986 and since then has treated over 120,000 patients at hospitals and surgery centers in seven upper Midwestern states. He says this procedure is very well tolerated by most patients and is a standard procedure offered to appropriate candidates. Other procedures are available but have a greater level of invasiveness making lithotripsy one of the first choices for treating kidney stones.

Kidney stones are one of the most common urologic ailments, affecting 1 out of every 20 people in the United States, according to the National Institute of Health. There are different types of stones and the causes can vary from patient to patient. For this reason a kidney stone patient may need to have an evaluation as to why they are forming stones, particularly if it is a recurrent problem. Dietary changes and other treatment recommendations may be suggested for the prevention of future kidney stones. Urologists specialize in this type of analysis and now this is available in the Tri Valley Health System service area adding a new level of convenience for local residents.

For more information about shockwave lithotripsy and other urologic services available at Tri Valley Health System please contact us at 308-697-3329.